

for development of trained manpower in the field of medical and health care. The institute runs MBBS and Post-graduate courses besides providing general medical care. The proposed North-Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Shillong, mainly deals with post-graduate education in medical sciences in 35 speciality and super speciality departments besides offering referral medical services. It will also provide the much-desired specialised medical care for entire north-eastern region. As such, both the institutes will give necessary fillip to the health manpower requirements in the region.

The first phase of upgradation of RIMS, Imphal was completed in 1998-99 at an expenditure of Rs 89.02 crores. The Phase II of the proposal for extension of RIMS at an estimated cost of Rs. 90 crores is under consideration of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

A High level committee set up under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Health) examined the requirement of health manpower in north-eastern region and the proposal of RIMS, Imphal. In its meeting held on 12.3.2001, the committee finalised the report. The Expenditure Finance Committee memorandum of Phase II of RIMS, Imphal, would be revised by the North-Eastern Council in the light of the recommendations made by the high powered committee.

Cost of production of steel

†*528. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies, out of the steel producing companies in the world whose production cost is minimum;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited is also one of those companies;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) if so, the average production cost thereof; and
- (d) to what extent the said production cost is less than the cost of Steel Authority of India Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) the Ministry of Steel does not monitor the cost of production of various Steel Companies of the World. However, a UK based organisation, namely, Commodity Research Unit (CRU) has carried out some studies on the production cost for 86 companies located in different countries; As per this report, Tata Steel had the minimum net operating cost at a hot strip stage in the year 2000.

(c) The net operating cost for hot roiled strips of Tata Steel as reported by CRU is US\$ 177.53 per tonne in the calender year 2000.

(d) The production cost of steel of Steel Authority of India Limited was not studied by the Commodities Research Unit. However, the variable cost of Hot Rolled coils for 1999-2000 at Bokaro Steel Plant of SAIL was US\$ 134 per tonne (exchange rate US\$=46.86 Rs.)

Decline in the DD's revenue through advertisements

*529. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DD's audience is twice that of the total satellite audience put together and it has the highest reach amongst the high, the middle and the low income groups;

(b) whether it is also a fact that DD's share in advertisement revenue has declined in the last five years while private channels share has increased manifold despite their late entry on the media scene; and